

REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 26 has been cancelled, claims 24, 25, 27-32 and 34-36 have been amended. Claims 1-24 have been previously cancelled. Accordingly, claims 24, 25 and 27-36 are currently pending in the application, of which claim 24 is independent claims. The Office Action indicates that claims 26-35 are objected to but allowable if presented in independent form.

In view of the above amendments and the following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and timely withdrawal of the pending objections and rejections for the reasons discussed below.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 24 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 5,929,958 issued to Ohta, *et al.* (“Ohta”) in view of U. S. Patent No. 4,960,719 issued to Tanaka, *et al.* (“Tanaka”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

In this response, claim 24 has been amended to incorporate all the limitations of allowable dependent claim 26. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection of claim 26.

Claims 25 and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Ohta in view of Tanaka, further in view of U. S. Patent No. 4,960,719 issued to Tanaka, *et al.* Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claims 25 and 36 are dependent from claim 24. As previously mentioned, independent claim 24 has been amended and is now believed to be patentable over the cited references. Thus, dependent claims 25 and 36 would be also patentable at least for the same reason.

Other Matters

In addition to the amendments made to claim 24, claims 24, 25, 27-32 and 34-36 have been amended for proper dependency, clarification, better wording and informality correction purposes only.

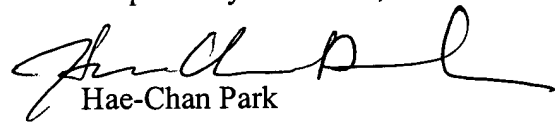
CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the pending Office Action and respectfully submits that all of the stated grounds for rejection have been overcome or rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are allowable and that the application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the number below to expedite prosecution.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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